ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE PUDUVAL RULES REVISION COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT: Under the presidency of the Deputy President the following non-official members have been elected for the Unemployment Committee :—

1. Mr. Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai,
2. Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, and
3. Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.

The following non-official members were elected for the Puduval Rules Revision Committee :—

1. Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai,
2. Mr. G. Raman Menon, and
3. Mr. C. N. Tuppan Numbutiri.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND XIV—POLICE– RS. 5·40 LAKHS.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·40 lakhs under Demand XIV—Police.

18 A. POLICE—COMMISSIONER.

Motion 292.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

292. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,432 for establishment by Rs. 100.

In doing so, I beg to state that I am not unaware of the difficulties under which the Police work is being carried on in Travancore. I also yield to none in my appreciation of the courage and heroism and detective skill occasionally displayed by the members of the Police Department. All the same, it will be useful for the officer in command of the Police force to know what we on this side of this House have to say regarding the work of his department. The police being the principal army of the executive, I believe it will also be of interest to the Government to know how far their policies finding expression in the departmental administration have conduced to the good of the people. It is on a very nice balancing of the differing viewpoints that a correct estimate of the actual results of the police work can be formed. Sir, I shall follow the learned Commissioner of Police who framed his demand on the actual expenses incurred in the year 1100. I shall also attempt to take stock of the achievements of the police forces in the year 1101, in order that we may prepare ourselves for the probable benefits that are in store for us.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I rise to a point of order. He speaks of taking stock of the achievements of the police forces. Can a question of general policy be discussed in a cut motion ?

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): To speak of what they did is not discussing the policy of the department. In my opinion, talking about what they have done does not amount to a discussion of the general policy of the department. I am only talking about the work that they did in the year 1100.

PRESIDENT: You may proceed.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Sir, what is noticeable in the first place is that there are only 2,000 policemen to guard and take care of the person and property of 40 lakhs of people. The policemen in Travancore appear to be also the cheapest in all India. The average cost of a policeman in Travancore is about Rs. 273 while it is about Rs. 540 in British India. The average tax per head of population is about 2 annas here while it is about 9 annas in British India.

Another feature noticeable in the administration of the Police Department is that nearly 12 per cent. of the total expenditure is consumed by the Police Commissioner and his staff. In examining the work done by the department in 1100, what we see is that crime has increased all round, the percentage of detection has fallen, the percentage of conviction has also fallen and the percentage of property recovered has also fallen. The escape from the police custody has increased and the habituals who have got out of police vigilance have also increased. Punishment has also increased. There have been 31 dismissals; 15 per cent. of the Head Constables have been punished and 47 per cent. of the total police force have been punished. As regards the recovery of stolen articles, the Commissioner of Police asks us to find consolation in the fact that the percentage of property recovered in British Districts is much lower. Well, Sir, he gives us no satisfaction. Whatever may be the economic condition of the people living in British Districts, I hope the non-official members of this House will agree with me when I say that we cannot afford to keep a share [illegible] for the thief and we want more to meet the increasing cost of education of our children and the increasing [illegible] necessaries of life. Last Saturday, when we were discussing the Law's Delays Committee, it was affirmed that the conditions there are not identical with ours. So far as police work is concerned, I may say the conditions are not identical, because they have got a police force which is fourteen times in number to that existing here. In regard to the number of cases of cognisable crimes, there have been 53,000 in the Madras Presidency which is 23 times as big as ours and in regard to the number of cases of grave crimes, there have been 36,410 in Madras as against 1,348 here. There are several other points in British India which do not compare with ours. There are only 20 constables in the department here who are totally illiterate, but, there are many Head Constables there who are illiterate. There are also 1,320 illiterate, constables. All these show that a comparison with the Madras police is not at all satisfactory. In regard to grave offences, in Travancore, out of 1,348 cases, nearly 1,200 related to theft, cattle-lifting and house-breaking and theft, unmixed or uncomplicated. So, a very large number of the offences in Travancore relate to the thief and the duty of the police should have been in the direction of attaining

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excellence in detecting theft and recovering stolen property. So my opinion in so far as to the cardinal function of the Police in Travancore is concerned is that they have not discharged their duties satisfactorily. As regards punishment, nearly 50 per cent. of the police force were punished. It does not show that discipline has been well maintained. There is the admission from the Police Commissioner. He says that "discipline has been allowed to deteriorate in Kottayam". Well, Sir, if you tear away the veil of official reserve and make some allowance for the language of official diplomacy, we can see that the police have been allowed to run riot in the Kottayam District. Following this admission comes also this information that there have been fifteen cases of forging of currency notes. This also has its birth-place in several taluks of the Kottayam District. That shows that the police discipline in the Kottayam District was not satisfactory. I ask, Sir, what has been done with the officer who has been responsible for allowing discipline to deteriorate. Are the men to be punished for the failure of the officer to discharge his duty properly? That is a question that I wish to ask.

Another feature of the Police Department in the year was the emergence of women in very large numbers as law-breakers. 3000 women have been prosecuted and over 1,000 have been convicted. This is nearly thrice as many as in 1099. There must be some reason and I do not believe that the Police Commissioner is going to say that this may be the first visible sign of an organised conspiracy to get women appointed as Magistrates. There may be economic reasons behind it. This calls for the earnest attention on the part of the Government.

Another thing is the direction by the Government to the Magistrates that, in cases where they fail to award compensation to the policemen discharged by them, they should invariably state the reasons for not so doing. In the first place, it must be borne in mind that it is only the superior Magistrates who are competent to try the policemen. The awarding of compensation is left to the unfettered discretion of the Magistracy under the law, only that they have been asked to state reasons when they *do award* compensation; but the executive order now issued has the effect practically of superseding the provisions of the law in the compulsion sought to be enforced on the Magistrates to state reasons for *not* awarding compensation. This is a trespass upon the functions and province of the judiciary. There should be equality of treatment in the eye of the law. Although it takes only the shape of a suggestion, of all, that suggestion has emanated from an authority who is competent to enforce obedience in case of disobedience and carries with it the attributes of a command. The chief object of a judicial trial is impartiality and that impartiality is sought to be destroyed.—

PRESIDENT: Time is up. You may finish your sentence.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): by the order. I think it is very necessary that that order should be altered.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, with regard to the accusation that crimes have increased last year, I do not

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[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

think that any particular reason can be assigned. Sometimes there may be a slight decrease in crimes, at other times there may be an increase in crimes. No particular reason, I think, can be assigned for this. As far as I can see, there has not been an abnormal increase in crimes.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): May I know whether there were not 22 cases of murder that year in excess of the previous year?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): But I say no particular reason can be assigned for this. It may partly be due to the tendency that is now going on for partition of the Nayar tawards. This brings about property disputes and consequently murder.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): When was the Nayar Regulation passed? We are talking about the year 1100.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): It is not due to the passing of the Regulation. Even before the passing of the Regulation the tendency among the Nayar tarwads was in favour of partition and this is the reason for the increase in the number of murders.

With regard to the fall in percentage—

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does the learned Commissioner say that the accuseds in all these cases of murder were Nayars?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I say that it is only one of the plausible reasons for the increase in cases of murder. Unless I examine in detail all the cases I cannot say definitely what the reasons are.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I cannot hear.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Unless I examine all the cases, it is not possible for me to say that all the accuseds were Nayars. A plausible reason for the increase in the number of murders is the partition in the Nayar tarwads.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know on what basis the Police Commissioner affirms his opinion?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): A large number of disputes arose as a result of the partition.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know whether the member is in a position to give us the number of disputes that have arisen in connection with the partition?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I cannot give the figures now. But they can easily be collected and supplied. There is no disputing the fact that the number of property disputes has increased.

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Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai referred to the increase in the numbe of punishments of policemen. I think that only shows that officers have begun to effect better control over their men. Better control means more punishments. Offences which remain undetected and unpunished are now being detected and punished.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): May I know whether the punishment of nearly 50 per cent. of the whole police force is an indication of control or loss of control?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): The officers are controlling the men better. That is what it means.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Why did the Commissioner say that discipline had been allowed to deteriorate?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commisioner of Police*): In a particular District—

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Louder, please.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Last year there were 3 officers in charge of the Kottayam District. Probably, he was referring to a particular officer and I think he did not take any particular action. That officer retired from service. That may be the reason why he has not taken any action against him.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know why there should be so many cases of counterfeiting in Kottayam if preventive action was taken?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): It is there that these activities had been started and it continues to be there. I do not think that new cases of counterfeiting are going on now. All those few cases that were discovered were cases that had already originated. We have not had any new cases of counterfeiting in Kottayam District of late.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I do not hear.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Notes forged originally are being brought out and uttered and those cases are now coming in as new cases.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): It is said in the Administration Report that an additional Inspector's place had been sanctioned with the object of tracing out the origin of the spurious currency notes. May I know the nature of the work that the Inspector has to do?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): The post was only a temporary one and ceased last year. The object was to find out the origin of spurious notes. The origin was traced and the case ended in conviction.

Mr. Madhavan Pillai referred to the number of policemen here being in excess of what it is in British India. I think the conditions here are different and many cases for which there will be no complaints

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[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

in British India are being made much of in Travancore. Therefore it is very necessary that the strength of the police here is larger, and that cannot be helped.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I said the number was small. I did not say the number is great.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I am sorry I did not hear him aright. Regarding the deterioration of discipline in the Kottayam District, I have already given my explanation. There were three officers in the district. Mr. Pitt referred to a particular officer. That officer has retired and nothing more could now be done.

Mr. Madhavan Pillai spoke of the Government order about the award of compensation to policemen. In the case of policemen investigating cases, there is always the possibility of their incurring the displeasure of one party or other and they make all sorts of complaints against the policemen.

MR. K MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): May I know whether he is aware that in the report of administration of criminal justice, it is said that 99 per cent. of the cases reported to the Magistracy were true. Why should the cases preferred against the police alone be untrue?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I am explaining the reason. The officers investigate the cases and make a report of the party who is concerned in a case. That party always makes it a point to make all sorts of false accusations against the police, very often in a vindictive spirit.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is it therefore proper to interfere with the discretion vested by law in the Magistracy?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): These people will take flimsy cases before the Magistrates. In view of the responsibilities the police have to take in the matter, I think a certain amount of protection has to be given to the police officers. Otherwise, if the policemen are to be placed on a par with other people, it is impossible for the police to act disinterestedly and boldly.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Have not the policemen tremendous powers over the actual liberties of the people?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They are being given protection in the same way as judicial officers are given protection from flimsy prosecutions.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): But that is afforded by law and not by an executive order. That is my complaint.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I think it would be better then to amend the law. It is very necessary that some

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sort of protection should be given to the police officers in view of the large number of false accusations that are now being made against them. They will have also to be attending courts to answer charges and this will take away much of their time. So it is very necessary to give them some protection.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I wish to make one observation in connection with this motion. It has been noticed from the administration reports of the Police Department that the percentage of detection of crimes and recovery of stolen property has been going down from year to year. Sir, it used to be the practice before to regard it as an encouraging feature of the administration to say that a larger percentage of cases ended in detection and conviction and also to say that there was larger percentage of recovery of property. But of late that percentage has gone down considerably. In the reports, in recent years, the Police Commissioner has taken a position which is absolutely un-understandable. Whereas at one time the Government were in favour of a larger percentage, when that percentage fell down, they said that that was a feature to be welcomed. They say that a lower percentage is a very desirable thing and a high percentage implies several objectionable features in the police administration. In answer to an interpellation from me, the Police Commissioner said that that was the policy of the Government. If that was the policy, I would only request the Government to revise that policy, so that we may secure to the people a larger percentage of discovery of crimes. Comparison with other places does not at all seem to be encouraging and the efficiency of our police force should not be allowed to grow weak nor can we be satisfied with a comparison of the conditions that exist elsewhere.

Mr. Madhavan Pillai then referred to the direction given by the Government to the Magistracy in respect of the award of compensation. I must say that the Magistracy does not stand in need of any extra direction given by the Government, especially as we know we have got here several First Class Magistrates doing both executive and judicial functions and no particular caution need be given to these gentlemen about their duties. I would therefore support Mr. Madhavan Pillai in that observation.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I have nothing more to say to the motion.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, as regards the remarks made by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai about the steady fall in the percentage of detection, I wish to observe that it can only be like that so long as the complexities of our life are increasing. In England, if I am not mistaken, the percentage of a first class detective officer is fixed at 33 or so. Here it is much higher. I do not mean to say that we are having better detection. It only means that the complexities of our lives have not gone up so much as those in England. When we reach that stage, the percentage

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of our detection will be 33 per cent. or so. It is now higher. That is all that I wish to add.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motions 293 to 296.

The following motion was not moved :-

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

293. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,646 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

The movers being absent, the following motions were deemed not to have been moved :—

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI :

294. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,646 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

18 B. POLICE—DISTRICT POLICE.

MR. A. K. PILLAI :

295. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600 for duty allowance to the Traffic Inspector by Rs. 10.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI :

296. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for purchase of copying papers.

Motion 297.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

297. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,98,715 for District Police by Re. 1.

The object of the motion is simple. I would like to know from the Commissioner of Police why the Inspector's post kept vacant at Attingal for the last 9 months was not filled up yet. By moving this motion, I have to admit the position that, among the several criminal taluks in Travancore, Chirayinkil is also one. Attingal is a place where there should be an Inspector of Police at all times. After the place of the Inspector fell vacant there, open acts of rowdysm were committed in front of the police station and the Magistrate's court. These were reported to the Police Commissioner; and when such things were being repeated day after day, I had occasion to go to the Police Commissioner and tell him openly that Attingal was in need of an Inspector. Even after my representation he did not move his little finger to appoint an Inspector. When we have to pay a good part of the revenue of the country for the police, I do not understand why an Inspector was not appointed at Attingal. I want to know how the Police Commissioner accounts for these acts committed there.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, In eply to his remarks, I wish to say that the Inspector who was formerly

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at Attingal was promoted to a higher place and a temporary man was put in there. But the temporary man was found unequal to meet the demands of the place and now another man has been posted there. I hope Mr. Nilakanta Pillai will be satisfied with this and withdraw his motion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Sir, even though the Commissioner assures me that proper arrangements have now been made, I do not think it will compensate the wrongs done till now. Anyhow I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion 298.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : I beg to move the following motion :—

298. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,98,715 for District Police by Rs. 100.

മോട്ടോർ വാഹനങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്ന യാത്രക്കാക്ക് നേരിട്ടുവരുന്ന ചില സങ്കടങ്ങളെ ഈ കൌൺസിൽവഴി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനാണ് ഈ മോഷൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്.

ഇവിടത്തെ റോഡുകൾ നന്നായിവരുന്ന ക്രമത്തിന് യാത്രക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങളുടെ സൌകര്യത്തിനു മോട്ടോർ വാഹനങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു. മോട്ടോർ വാഹനങ്ങളുടെ ഈ വർദ്ധന യാത്രക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒരു അനുഗ്രഹമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ലാ. എന്നാൽ മോട്ടോർ വാഹനങ്ങളുടെ നിയന്ത്രണം മതിയാകാതെ വരുന്നതുനാൽ മോട്ടോർ വാഹനങ്ങളിലുള്ള സഞ്ചാരത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പലവിധമായ സംകടങ്ങൾക്കും കഷ്ടതകൾക്കും ഇടയായിതീരുന്ന സംഗതി മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. നിയമനിഷ്കർഷയാൽ മോട്ടോർ വാഹനങ്ങളെ ക്രട്ടതൽ ശ്രദ്ധയോടുകൂടി നിയന്ത്രിക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല ഗവർണ്മെൻറു കയ്യേൽക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ പോലീസുവകുപ്പിൽ നിന്നും അമാന്തിക്കുന്നതായി ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. അവക്കു സാധിക്കാത്തനിലയിൽ എത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി എം. എസ്സ്. റോഡിനെ എടുക്കാം. എം. എസ്സ്. റോഡിൽതന്നെ ഇപ്പോൾ ഓടിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഫോർഡ് അഷ്ടാസന കാറുകൾ നൂറ്റമ്പതോളം ഉണ്ടെന്നാണു ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നതു്. ഇതുകളുടെ നിയന്ത്രണാധികാരം പോലീസു വകുപ്പിലാണു സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഈ അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടോർ കാറുകൾ ഒരു മണിക്കൂറിൽ ഇന്ന നാഴികയിൽ ക്രട്ടതൽ ഓട്ടിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നും, ഒൻപതുപേരിൽ ക്രട്ടതൽ കയറാൻപാടില്ലെന്നുമാണു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ നിശ്ചയത്തെ ലംഘിക്കാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും പോലീസുവകുപ്പിൽ നിന്നും പര-

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ശോധനകളും വച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടോർകാറുകൾക്കു നിശ്ച യിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫസ്റ്റ് ഗിയർ വേഗത്തിനുപകരം ൨൦ ൪൦ മൈൽ വേഗത്തിലാണു ഓട്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു്. അതോടുകൂടി ഒൻപതുപേ രെ കയറ്റാമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പകരം എത്രയോ കൂടുതലായ ആളുകളെയാണ് കയറ്റിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു്. ചിലപ്പോൾ ൨൦ ൪൦-ം, ൨൦-ം ആളുകളെ കയറ്റിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു് പല അവസ രങ്ങളിലും എനിക്കുതന്നെ കാണാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വിശേഷദിവസങ്ങ ളിൽ ഈ അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടോർകാറുകളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഏറ്റവും പരിതാപകരമാണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഈ കാറുകളിന്മേൽ വേഗത്തേ യും ഭാരത്തേയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു പലവിധമായ അപജയങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. യാത്രക്കാർക്കു കഠിനമായ പരുക്കുകൾക്കും മരണങ്ങൾക്കും ഇടയായിതീരുന്നതു പത്രങ്ങളിൽ പലപ്പോഴും കാണാവുന്ന താണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുണ്ടാകുന്ന അപകടങ്ങൾ റൌണ്ടിലോ അതിനു സമീ പസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലൊ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നവമാത്രമെ പുറത്തറിയാനും കേസ്സാക്കാ നും ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളൂ. മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽവച്ചു റോഡിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കു് അപകടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ അവരെ അവിടെ ഉപേ ക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുപോകുവാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ആ കാറിന്റെ നമ്പർ അറിയാൻപോലും സാധിക്കാത്തവിധം അതു വേഗത്തിൽ ഓടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഫോർഡ് കാറുകളെ അതിവേഗത്തിൽ ഓടിച്ചുപോകുമ്പോൾ അതിന്റെ steering വളരെ സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും, ഡ്രൈവരുടെ സ്വാധീനത്തിൽ നില്ക്കാ തെവരുമെന്നുമാണു് ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ കാരണത്താൽ മ ദ്രാസു മുതലായ പ്രധാന പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ ഫോർഡു കാറുകളെ ജനങ്ങ ളുടെ യാത്രക്കായുള്ള സർവ്വീസു നടത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു തടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇവിടെ ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള അഷ്ടാസനഫോർഡുമോട്ടോ ർകാറുകളെ നിരുത്തണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഒരിക്കലും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നില്ലാ. ഇപ്പോൾ ലൈസൻസു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഈ ഫോർഡ് അഷ്ടാസനകാ റുകളിൽ സ്പീഡോമീറർ വച്ചു ഓടിക്കുന്നതിനു നിർബന്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

ഇപ്പോൾ ഫോർഡ് അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടോർകാറുകളെക്കാൾ സുഖവും സൌകര്യവും, നിർഭയവുമായ സ്റ്റീയറിങ്ങ് ഒൺടൺ ബസ്സുകൾ ഉള്ള പ്പോൾ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും അസൌകര്യങ്ങളും അപകടങ്ങളും ഉള്ളതായ ഫോ ർഡു് അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടോർകാറുകളിൽ യാത്രക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങൾ എന്തിനുക

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യവുന്ന എന്നുള്ള ചോദ്യത്തിന അവകാശമുള്ളതാണ്. അതിലേക്കു കാരണമുണ്ട്. ഈ ഒൺടൺ ബസ്സുകളെല്ലാം ടൌണിലുള്ള പ്രധാനറോഡുകളിൽ കടക്കാൻസമ്മതിക്കാതെ കരമനവന്നനില്ക്കയും ആ വഴി പോകയുമാണ ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ഒൺടൺബസ്സുകളിൽ വരുന്നയാത്രക്കാർ കരമനയിലും, പാളയത്തിലും നിന്ന വണ്ടികാം പിടിച്ച ചാല, കോട്ടക്കകം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്കു പോകേണ്ടതായിവരുന്നു. ഇതിലേക്കു മിക്കവാറും നാഗർകോവിലിൽനിന്നും തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തേക്കുള്ള മോട്ടാർചാജ്ജ് കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിവരുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ നഷ്ടത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനാണ് അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടാർകാറുകളിൽ താല്പര്യമില്ലാത്തവർപോലും സഞ്ചരിക്കാനിടവരുന്നത്.

കൃഷ്ണൻടയറുകളും ഇട്ടിട്ടുള്ള വലിയബസ്സുകളും തിരുവനന്തപുരം മെയിൻറോഡുവഴിപോകാൻ പാടില്ലെന്ന മുമ്പുനിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഈ ബസ്സുകളും ടൌൺറോഡുകളെ ചീത്ത ാക്കുമെന്നമാത്രമല്ലാ, ആ റോഡുകളിൽ നടന്ന സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അസൌകര്യമാണെന്നും സമ്മതിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ അതിൽപിന്നീട നടപ്പിൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതും സുമാററിക്ക്റബറുകളും ഉള്ളതുമായ ഒൺടൺബസ്സുകളെ തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിലെ മെയിൻ റോഡുവഴി ഓടിക്കാൻപാടില്ലെന്ന തടഞ്ഞീട്ടുള്ളതു യാത്രക്കാക്കു വലുതായ അസൌകര്യത്തിനും, ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനും, നഷ്ടത്തിനും ഇടയാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ ഒൺടൺബസ്സുകളെ കൃഷ്ൻടയർ വലിയബസ്സുകളുടെ ക്ലാസ്സിൽഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയതു എങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ലാ. ഒൺടൺബസ്സുകളും പൂജപ്പുര കരമന റോഡുവഴിപോകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കോട്ടക്കകം, ചാല, പഴവങ്ങാടി മുതലായസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുള്ളവക്ക് വണ്ടിവാടക കൊടുത്തു നഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നതിനെ വിചാരിച്ച് അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടാർകാറുകളെതന്നെ അഭയംപ്രാപിച്ച സംകടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. യാത്രക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സൌകര്യവും സുഖവും തോന്നുന്ന വാഹനങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കാൻ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും വലുതായ പ്രതിബന്ധം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിരിക്കയാണ ചെയ്യുന്നത്. യാത്രക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങൾ അവരുടെ ഈ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളെ വിശദീകരിച്ച പോലീസുകമ്മിഷണക്കു പലേ ഹർജികൾ കൊടുക്കയും അതിൻെറ ഫലമായി ഒൺടൺബസ്സുകളുടെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരെയും അഷ്ടാസന മോട്ടാർകാറുകളുടെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരേയും വിളിച്ചുകൂട്ടി ഒരു കാൺഫറൻസു നടത്തിയതായും അറിയുന്നു. ഒൺടൺബസ്സുകളും, അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടാർകാറുകളും തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിലെ മെയിൻറോഡുവഴി ചാലയിൽ കൂടി നാഗ

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ർകോവിലിലേക്കു പോകണമെന്നും തിരിയെ വരുമ്പോൾ കരമന പൂജപ്പുര റോഡുവഴി വരണമെന്നും ശിപാർശചെയ്തു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിലേക്ക് എഴുതീട്ടുള്ളതായും അറിയുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു കമ്മീഷണർ ശിപാർശചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ റോഡുവഴി ഓടിവരുന്ന മോട്ടാർ വാഹനങ്ങളുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നതാണ്. മോട്ടാർവാഹനങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു ടൌണിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾക്കും കുറവുവരുന്നതാണ്. യാത്രക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള ഈ അസൌകര്യങ്ങളെ നീക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു് ഒൺടൺബസ്സുകളെ ചാലവഴി വിടുന്നതിനു് അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): സ്കൂൾ സമയത്തും കച്ചേരിസമയത്തും ഈ ബസ്സുകൾ ടൌണിൽക്കൂടി പോകുമ്പോൾ എയിറൊസീറ്ററിൽ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഉപദ്രവത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ഉപദ്രവം ഉണ്ടാകയില്ലേ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): പോലീസ്കമ്മീഷണർക്കു ചിലർ ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഹർജികൊടുക്കുകയും അദ്ദേഹം അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിലേക്ക് എഴുതിട്ടുള്ളതായും ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നു. ഇതുപോലെ അനുവദിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ടൌണിൽ ഉള്ളവർക്ക് ഉപദ്രവം കുറഞ്ഞുവരുവാനേ തരമുള്ളൂ.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): ടൌൺ നിവാസികളാണോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ടൌണിലെ നിവാസികളും, ഇവിടം മുതൽ നാഗർകോവിൽവരെ യാത്രചെയ്യുന്നവരുമായ ആളുകളുംകൂടി പേർ ഹർജികൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണു ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നതു്. ഇവിടെനിന്നും പുറപ്പെടുന്ന മോട്ടാർ വാഹനങ്ങൾ നാഗർകോവിലിൽപോയി തിരിയെവരുമ്പോൾ പൂജപ്പുരവഴി ടൌണിൽ വരണമെന്നു പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിലേക്കു് എഴുതി അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നു. മി: ജീ. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ള ചോദിച്ചചോദ്യം വളരെ ന്യായമായ ഒന്നാണ്. പോലീസ്കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ശിപാർശയനുസരിച്ചു മോട്ടാർ വാഹനങ്ങളുടെ യാത്ര ഒരുപകുതിയായി കുറയും; ഉപദ്രവങ്ങൾ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I support the motion of Mr. Kumara Pillai for two reasons. The first is that I am not at all

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satisfied with the conduct of the police in the matter of checking, and the second reason is that the method now adopted in the matter of testing the motor vehicles as to the reliability or otherwise of putting them on the road is not at all satisfactory. As the members of this House might know, there are certain rules framed by the Government to regulate the conduct as well as the running of cars let on hire. Members of this House have known that there are certain rules which regulate the time for the running of motor vehicles. These vehicles have to leave their garages at particular hours and arrive at certain places at certain hours. This rule is perhaps intended to avoid the vehicles racing with each other. If a *Ford* nine-seater car is running from one place to another, it is allowed to take a particular route ; and another car running by the same route will go only quarter of an hour later. As a matter of fact, as we know from our experience of the conduct of the police men appointed to check them, we very often find that a certain motor vehicle which has to leave a certain place at a particular time waits on the road for more than a quarter of an hour to pick up people on the way so much so that two vehicles start from the very same place. I know and I am saying this very painfully that the lower ranks of the Police Department have been persuaded to accept certain remuneration and allow these cars to go on as they like. The District Superintendent of the Trivandrum Division had an occasion to go to a particular motor company to make an investigation and a ledger of the particular company was referred to him. In one of the items it was mentioned "to the Police 4 annas, to the Police 4 annas ". In one page itself there were four or five items relating to the same subject. When the Police Superintendent was asked to take action on it, he said that he was not helped by such entries, because the particular constable who received the remuneration was not mentioned. It is a matter of common knowledge that these nine-seaters leave the stands simultaneously and more than one car run to the same place at the same time racing with each other.

Secondly, in regard to the method of putting the vehicles on the road, the agency employed for the purpose is not at all competent. As it is now done, a Sub-division Officer, a person who is qualified in the civil branch of engineering alone, is allowed to test whether a vehicle is fit to be put on the road or not. As it is also known to every one in this House, the persons who are qualified only in civil engineering are not competent to test motor vehicles as it requires an electrical engineer or a mechanical engineer. This does not at all give satisfaction to the travelling public. Sometimes as Mr. Kumara Pillai said, the steering is not under the perfect control of the driver.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : Will he give one instance of a civil engineer being deputed to test a motor vehicle?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : In Nagercoil, the Sub-division Officer is testing the motor vehicles.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : He is a qualified mechanical engineer.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): We come across drivers who while plying through the road do not get perfect control in steering. I came across actually one instance in which the steering got out of control, but the driver was able to stop the car by means of the foot-brake. So I believe those persons who have actual experience in travelling in cars will say that the checking of these cars requires a highly qualified person. There is another reason. The Sub-division Officers are engaged in their section work and they will not be able to devote as much attention as is necessary to this work as a person appointed specially for this purpose. So I beg to support with great pleasure the motion of Mr. Kumara Pillai.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I do not fully support the motion of Mr. Kumara Pillai. These eight-seaters are a very useful class of vehicles to convey passengers from Trivandrum to Nagercoil and other places. Mr. Kumara Pillai wants the buses to be allowed to come through the streets in the Trivandrum town. I think that is his main object in bringing forward this motion. As a member of the city, I would request the Government to think twice before this is sanctioned. The roads in Trivandrum are too narrow and the traffic has been growing very heavy for the past several years and we are having a large increase in the number of private cars, eight-seaters and other small vehicles every year. Even these vehicles cannot find sufficient space to move freely. Therefore, it will be very dangerous to allow these heavy buses to run through the city. The school-going population as well as the other travelling public will find it very difficult to go through these roads safely. We want these roads widened and foot-paths provided on both sides of these main roads.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുള്ള റോഡുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ളതിൽ നിന്നും കൂറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): കുറഞ്ഞാൽ തരക്കേടില്ല. എന്നാൽ അതു് എങ്ങിനെ കുറയും?

My object in opposing this motion is simply to show that buses should not be allowed to run through Chalai and the Main Road. Of course, they are allowed to come to town through Palayam and I think it does not in any way inconvenience the travelling public. If the passengers want to come to the town, to Palavangadi, Chalai and the Main Road, they can come by means of the eight-seaters. There are a number of them running up and down. I oppose the motion.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Both Mr. Kumara Pillai and Mr. Sivatanu Pillai were referring to the unsatisfactory control of motor traffic. It will be news to them when I say that we have been given no staff for controlling motor traffic What we now do is, to make use of the existing strength for controlling motor traffic. I may say that the police strength in our country is intended for the purpose of discharging specific duties,

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No additional men have been allowed for the regulation of motor traffic which is an extra duty imposed on the police staff.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know from the Commissioner how many Inspectors there are now for inspecting motor buses?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): There is one Motor Traffic Inspector for the whole State and the Government have now sanctioned one more Inspector. He will be appointed this year. So there are two Inspectors for regulating motor traffic in the whole State.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether two Inspectors are sufficient for inspecting all motor vehicles throughout the State?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I say that even two Inspectors may not be quite sufficient. If we are given more men, it will be better. We are now managing with one man and we are going to have another this year and it will be better if we are given more men.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the Commissioner has made any recommendation for more men?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I have asked for one Inspector and that request has been sanctioned by the Government. So we are going to have two Inspectors in future for the control of motor traffic. It is out of the existing strength that we are managing this regulation of motor traffic and as I said,—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): പോലീസ് കാൻസ്റ്റബിൾമാരേയും ഹെഡ് കാൻസ്റ്റബിൾമാരേയും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെയും കൂടുതൽ നിയമിച്ചാലും ചെക്കുചെയ്യുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കു മധ്യേവച്ചു ചെയ്യുന്നപ്രവൃത്തികളെ എങ്ങിനെ തടയാൻ സാധിക്കും?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): ട്രാഫിക്ക് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ മോട്ടാർ വാഹനങ്ങളിൽ കൂടിയാത്രചെയ്താലെ സാധിക്കയുള്ളൂ.

So it is out of the existing strength that we are now managing all this additional duty. I admit that the regulation of motor traffic and the control of these motor vehicles by the constables is not quite satisfactory. I think at least Head Constables must be put in charge of this important business. For that purpose, we have not Head Constables enough. Because we have only constables, we have engaged them to carry on that work. It will be better if we have at least Head Constables.

As regards allowing one ton buses to ply through the town it is true I have made a recommendation to the Government and I have no objection to one ton buses plying along the main roads of the town. Under conditions I have laid down in my recommendation, it will only decrease the number of services in the town this way. There are about sixty

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[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

nine-seater cars now running between Trivandrum and Nagercoil. Each of these nine-seaters has three services. That means that 180 times, these nine seaters will be running up and down the roads here. What I now propose to do is to allow all these nine-seaters and buses to enter the town from Karamanai and go along the road in one direction so that they could go only in one direction and can never cross each other. They will have to go along the main road and then go to Nagercoil through Karamanai. Buses therefore will go only in one direction in the town roads and that will reduce the number of services by one half and the increase thereby will be only 23 because there are only 23 one ton buses while the decrease is 90.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Having heard the Commissioner on the subject, I have only to point out one circumstance, that is to say, any arrangement that may be effected in regard to the regulation of traffic should not certainly affect the facilities of the travelling public in regard to small nine-seaters, because they do serve a very useful purpose and with much less inconvenience. In regard to large buses carrying 20 and more passengers, it is absolutely undesirable that they should be allowed to pass along the main roads. I am of opinion that it would be better to continue the existing arrangement.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, In this connection, I should like to point out that much more attention has to be paid by the Government in the matter of control of motor vehicles. The principle to be observed in this matter should be, first of all, the safety of foot passengers. It is a well-recognised fact that there are no separate foot paths in our public ways; the safety of foot passengers should therefore be the main consideration in controlling motor traffic. I hope it is fairly well-known that in some of the decisions of the courts in the United States of America, it has been laid down that by priority of use and right, the foot passengers have a superior right or a right which is stronger than all the others to use the highways. That should always be kept in mind by the authorities. I join Mr. Kumara Pillai in saying that overloading of vehicles should be strictly forbidden and if possible, I think it will be useful to send one police constable in every bus, so as to prevent overloading. As has been pointed out by Mr. Kumara Pillai there is this practice of just asking some of the passengers to get down before they reach the police station and asking them to come by another way, taking them again and carrying them in the vehicles. This is a very dangerous practice and many motor accidents so far as I am aware have been caused by overloading. That disturbs the equillibrium of the vehicles and any slight accident is enough to upset the vehicles.

As regards the other portion urged by Mr. Kumara Pillai, I don't agree with him on the principle which I enunciated first, that is, the safety of foot passengers should be the main consideration. Next, give safety to other users of the highways, namely, those who drive animal

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carts, jutkas, etc. All these have a priority of right over motor vehicles, because they have been earlier in the field and roads were constructed for their use mainly. That is a well-recognised principle of law now in force in the United States of America. I request the Government to apply that principle here also, either by decisions of courts—that the Government may not be able to do—or by legislation. The Government can do this latter. In the matter of accidents caused by motor vehicles, the burden of proof should be upon the drivers to show that they have used proper care and not upon the foot passengers that the drivers did not. That should be done in the interests of foot passengers and of natural justice.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*) : I also wish to draw the attention of the Government to the large number of motor accidents that we have been reading of in the newspapers during the last year. It is necessary that some attempt should be made to enquire into the whole question to find out who is responsible for so many accidents. I understand that one reason why such accidents take place is the way in which a single driver is made to drive a car continuously for nearly 24 hours. Now, if a motor driver gets no sleep during 24 hours and yet he is made to continue his duty which is very strenuous, it is no wonder that the car sometimes gets out of control. I cannot just now suggest any remedy for this. I think it will be possible for the Government to make some rules whereby the number of hours which a driver may be made to work can be limited in such a way that he should have a reasonable period of rest and sleep.

Another thing that may be pointed out is this. According to the present system, an officer who grants certificate to drivers and to cars, is given a certain portion of the fees levied upon those who want to get licenses. I wonder whether that is a desirable arrangement. A better arrangement for the Government would be to appoint a paid officer for the purpose and get all the fees direct from those who receive these licenses and pay the officer without having any reference to the amount paid by the applicant for the license. I have been also informed that in the matter of examining and certifying these vehicles, there was a special officer in previous years. But now a change in the arrangement has been made whereby some other officers belonging to the Police or the Engineering Department—I am not quite sure of that—are made to do this work and they are not specially qualified for this purpose. I wish the Government to reconsider the position and see whether the previous arrangement of having a special officer qualified for the purpose may not be re-introduced.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : Sir, the introduction and expansion of motor traffic has been a source of great benefit to the travelling public. We, from the north, formerly required nearly a week to reach Trivandrum and another week to be back there. We had to travel in old *Kettu vallams* leisurely. Now some of us can reach Trivandrum in a couple of hours. Therefore the benefit we have derived from the introduction of motor traffic cannot be over-estimated. But the traffic has grown all on a

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[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

sudden and in a quite unwieldly manner. Consequently, many undesirable conditions have come into existence and it would be a great blessing if the Government or the departments concerned would devise effective measures to eradicate these malpractices. In suggesting remedial measures, I should like to utter a word of warning, *viz.*, that care should be taken that the remedy is not worse than the disease. Often-times, if a person is given charge of testing and deciding the fitness of motor engines—as Mr. Thomas was suggesting—for the whole State, unless the man is very very upright and beyond any shadow of suspicion, there will be great danger of his using the enormous power vested in him to enrich himself at the sacrifice of the safety of the public. Therefore it is much better that an Assistant Engineer or a District Superintendent of Police is given some effective voice in the matter so that low-paid mechanical engineers or overseers should not have the last word about it. I have seen in this country and in other countries, the tremendous consequences of appointing unscrupulous persons to do this work. For instance, if a Boiler Inspector is so minded he could exact any amount of money by stopping the working of an engine in a factory for 24 hours. When such a case happens, the owner will offer Rs. 1,000 and more to allow the machine to be worked. Now we have a Boiler Inspector who is above suspicion and therefore this is a very great help. I do not want to hold any brief for anybody. But what I wish to say is that we want persons of Mr. Padmanabha Menon's type for this kind of work.

I know instances of such persons abusing their powers. As regards motor vehicles, the drivers are generally unscrupulous and uneducated, and all on a sudden a great responsibility is thrust upon them. It is desirable that these drivers may be asked to deposit a sum of Rs. 250 or Rs. 500. In case there is any accident, the burden should be on him to prove that the accident was not due to his carelessness; otherwise, the security should be forfeited. In many cases, it is due to the absolute carelessness of these people that dangers occur. Sometimes, these drivers are persons without any means. All on a sudden they become rich beyond the dreams of avarice in the shape of 50 or 70 rupees a month. They take to drink and merry-making and other enjoyments and therefore become callous to the safety of the passengers. It is but natural that if they stand to forfeit their deposits, they will think twice before they indulge in these excesses.

Then Mr. Thomas suggested that the owners should not be allowed to compel the same drivers to drive day and night. It is very necessary. The owners want anyhow to make a profit. One day, I was travelling in a bus and the present Dewan was also coming in the same direction and the Dewan noticed that the bus was overloaded. After going a small distance, the Dewan directed the police constables he next met to check the number of passengers in the bus. The constables found that the bus was not overloaded. I do not know what magic it was. (*Laughter*).

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The driver did not know that it was the Dewan. When I told him, there was some commotion.

MR K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether Mr. Mammen Mappillai reported that there was actual overloading?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): When the policemen came and counted, there was no overloading. When such is the case how can I report?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know whether it was not his duty as a citizen to report?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): In the case of a malpractice, I can only enlighten a citizen like Mr Joseph.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. Kumara Pillai referred to lack of sufficient authority on the part of the police in the matter of regulation of motor traffic. I merely want to mention that a report has been received from the Police Commissioner and it is undergoing examination at the hands of the Government. The discussion that has taken place in this House will be kept in view in coming to a decision in the matter.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ. എം. എൻ. പിള്ള പറഞ്ഞത് eight-seaters വളരെ ഉപയോഗമുള്ളവയാണെന്നാണ്. അതു് ഉപയോഗമുള്ളതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതിനേക്കാൾ വളരെ ക്ലൃതലായിട്ടും ശക്തിയായിട്ടും പറയുന്നു. ബസ്സിൽ പോകയാണെങ്കിൽ ര മണിക്കൂർ കൊണ്ടുമാത്രമേ നാഗർകോവിലിൽ എത്തുകയുള്ളൂ. ഈ എയിറ് സീറ്റിൽ പോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഫ മണിക്കൂർകൊണ്ടു് എത്താൻ സാധിക്കും.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): ബസ്സിൽ പോകയാണെങ്കിൽ നാലു മണിക്കൂർ വേണോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): നാലു മണിക്കൂർ വേണ്ടിവരും. ഞാൻ എപ്പോഴും ഈ മോട്ടാർ വാഹനങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നവനാണ്. ഒരു ദിവസം ചാലയിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു അഷ്ടാസനമോട്ടാർകാറിൽ ഞാൻ തിരിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഫസ്റ്റ് പേർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതിന്റെ വേഗത്തെ ശരിയായി പറയാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലെങ്കിലും ഞങ്ങളുടെ മുമ്പേ പോയിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ഒരു പ്ലെഷർകാറിന്റെമുമ്പേ പോയി. കുറഞ്ഞപക്ഷം മണിക്കൂറിനു ഫ ഫ. മൈൽ വേഗമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു തോന്നുന്നതു്.

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MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : കരമനയിൽ ഒരു സ്റ്റേഷനുണ്ടല്ലോ, അവിടെ ചെക്കുചെയ്തില്ലേ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*) : ഞങ്ങൾ ഏഴു പേർ ഇരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വണ്ടിയുടെ രണ്ടു വശത്തുമുള്ള പടുതയിട്ടിരിക്കയാണു ചെയ്തത്. കരമനപോലീസ് സ്റ്റേഷന്റെ അടുത്തു വന്നപ്പോൾ പോലീസുകാർ വരികയോ പരിശോധിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്തില്ല. അവിടെനിന്നും നെയ്യാറിൻകര പോയി. അവിടെ ചെന്നപ്പോൾ അവിടത്തെ ഒരു കാൺസ്റ്റബിളിനു് ഒരാളിനെ കയറി പാറശ്ശാല കൊണ്ടുവിടണം. അവിടേയും പരിശോധിച്ചില്ല. ആ കാൺസ്റ്റബിളിന്റെ ആളിനെക്കൂടി ചേർത്തു് ഞങ്ങൾ ഏഴ് പേരായിട്ടു പോയി. എയിറേസീററിൽനിന്നും താഴെ ഇറങ്ങുന്നതുവരെ മനസ്സിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഭയം എത്രമാത്രമാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതുപോലെയുള്ള ഭയം എല്ലാവർക്കും ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഈ സംഗതി ഇവിടെ നിർബന്ധമായിട്ടു പറയാൻ ഇടയായതു്. എയിറ്റ്സീററർ ഓടിക്കുന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു് ഒരു വിരോധവുമില്ല. കാറുകളിൽ സ്പീഡോമീററർ വയ്ക്കണമെന്നു് അവരോടു നിർബന്ധമായി ശട്ടംകെട്ടണം. ഞാൻ കയറി ഇരുന്ന വണ്ടി എത്രവേഗത്തിൽ പോയി എന്നു് എനിക്കു തന്നെ പറയാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. ഞങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പേ പോയിരുന്ന പ്ലഷർകാറിനെക്കാൾ വേഗത്തിൽ പോയി എന്നെ പറയാനെ ഇപ്പോൾ നിവർത്തിയുള്ളു. സ്പീഡോമിററർ വച്ചാൽ യാത്രക്കാർക്കു വേഗത്തെപ്പററിഅറിയുന്നതിനും, ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനോടോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പോലീസ്കമ്മിഷണരോടൊ സങ്കടമെയ്യും പറയുന്നതിനും സാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു സ്പീഡോമീററർ വയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു് അവരെ നിർബന്ധിക്കണം. എയിറ്റ്സീററർ, ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ഉപകാരമാണെങ്കിലും അതിനെക്കാൾ കൂടുതലായ ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളേയും ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്.

ചീഫ് സിക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു് അന്വേഷിച്ചു ചെയ്താൽ മതിയാകുന്നതാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞഅഭിപ്രായത്തിനു സമാധാനം പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നേപ്പോലെ ബസ്സിലും, എയിട്ട് സീററിലും സഞ്ചരിക്കാനുള്ള സൌകര്യം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. അദ്ദേഹം തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തെ സ്ഥിരതാമസക്കാരനും സമ്പന്നമായിട്ടു കാറുള്ള ആളുമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് എയിറ്റ് സീററിൽ നേരിടുന്ന ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും അപകടങ്ങളും അദ്ദേഹത്തിനറിയാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

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എന്റെ അനുഭവംകൊണ്ട് ഈ സംഗതിധാരാളം അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ബസ്സിൽ കരമനവന്നിറങ്ങി മുക്കാൽ രൂപാ കൊടുത്തു വണ്ടി പിടിച്ചു കോട്ടയ്ക്കകത്തേക്കോചാലയ്ക്കോ പോകാൻആരും തയാറാകയില്ല.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : പാളയത്തിൽ വന്നിറങ്ങാമല്ലോ?

MR T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): പാളയത്തിൽ നിന്നും കോട്ടയ്ക്കകത്തു പോകണമെങ്കിൽ മുക്കാൽ രൂപാ വണ്ടിക്കൂലി കൊടുക്കണം.

എയിറ് സീററിൽ പോകാൻ ഭയപ്പെടുന്നവർ വളരെയുണ്ട്. ഇവരെല്ലാം കരമന വന്നിറങ്ങി വണ്ടി വാടകകൊടുത്തു കോട്ടയ്ക്കകം, ചാല മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ പോകുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നത്.

MR. M N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): ചാല റോഡിനു വളരെ വിസ്താരം കുറവാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*) : ആ സംഗതി എനിക്കു നല്ലതു പോലെ അറിയാം. പോലീസ് കമ്മിഷണർ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിലേക്കയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ന്യൂ എയിറ് സീററുകൾ ഒരു ദിവസം ഫ്രീ പ്രാവശ്യം പോക്കുവരവു ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്നു. ഒൺടൺ ബസ്സ് പോകുമാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ശിപാർശ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് അനുവദിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം മോട്ടാർവാഹനങ്ങൾ ചില വഴി ഫ്രീ പ്രാവശ്യമേ പോകയുള്ളൂ. ഒരു കണക്കനുസരിച്ചു ട്രാഫിക്കു അവിടെ വളരെ കുറയുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നത്.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : എയിറ് സീററിനു പണം ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളവർ എന്തു ചെയ്യും?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ആ ചോദ്യത്തിനു് ഇവിടെ അവകാശമില്ല. എയിറ് സീററിനേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ പണച്ചിലവു ബസ്സുകൾക്കുണ്ട്. ഇവിടെ നോക്കേണ്ടതു യാത്രക്കാരുടെ സൌകര്യവും രക്ഷയുമാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ മാമ്മൻ മാപ്പിള പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായിട്ടു യോജിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു ഡ്രൈവർമാർക്കു ലൈസൻസ് കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാലത്തു ശരിയായ ഒരു ട്രൂക ഡിപ്പാസിററ് കെട്ടിവയ്പിക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡ്രൈവറന്മാരിൽ പലർക്കും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധമില്ലാതെകാണുന്നു. ഈയിടയ്ക്കുതന്നെ ഫർ-ാമത്തെ മയിലിൽ ഒരു അപകടം ഉണ്ടായി. ഒരു ദിവസം കാലത്തു് ഒരുസ്ത്രീ തുക്കാനായി

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

വാട്ടിന്റെ മുമ്പു നില്ക്കയായിരുന്നു. രണ്ടു എഞ്ചിറ്റ്സീററർകാരുമതിരിച്ചു ഓട്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവന്നു. സ്റ്റീയറിങ്ങ് ഡ്രൈവരുടെ കൺട്രോളിൽ പിടിച്ചു നിൽക്കാൻസാധിക്കാതെ വന്നതിനാൽ അതിലെ ഒരുകാർ ആ സ്ത്രീയുടെ പുറത്തു കയറുകയും ആ സ്ത്രീ ഉടനെ മരിക്കയും ചെയ്തു. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇതിനെപ്പററി തൃപ്തികരമായ ഒരന്വേഷണം നടത്തി തീരുമാനിക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെഅഭിപ്രായം. ഈ വാക്കുകളോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഒരു മോഷനെ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motions 299 and 300.

The following motions were deemed not to have been made as the members were absent :

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI :

299. To reduce the allotment of Rs.4,98,715 for District Police by Rs. 100.

MOTIONS UNDER DEMAND XIV.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW :

300. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·40 lakhs under Demand XIV by Re. 1.

Motion 301.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

301. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5·40 lakhs under Demand XIV—Police by Rs. 10.

The object of this motion is to make a constructive suggestion for putting down corruption and malpractices on the part of the subordinates of this department. It is well-known that a great deal of trouble and oppression is being caused to the common people of the country by the highhandedness of policemen. I need not give examples, because such examples have been brought to the notice of the Government in the Popular Assembly as well as in this Council. What I wish to say now is that if the Government trust the people of the locality to a greater extent than they do now, this sort of trouble can be very greatly alleviated. In olden days, I have heard that it was the practice of kings and other potentates to send round spies to all parts of the country to know how matters were going on, how their officers were discharging their duties, what the people felt, what complaints they had and so on. It seems they would also set other spies to watch the spies themselves. There are Police Officers in the different nooks and corners of this country whose duty it is to protect the lives and property of the people. What I suggest is that local committees should be formed and that the members of these committees should be empowered to pay surprise visits to the local police stations and to report directly to the Police Commissioner or to the Government in case it is found that the police officers are not discharging their duties properly. When I suggested this method to a friend of mine, he said that it would be a very good thing if

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proper men could be got at to do this. Under the present conditions in Travancore where education, as has been acknowledged on all hands, has progressed much more than in other parts of India, I believe, there is not much difficulty in finding out proper persons to constitute these local committees. Anyhow, even if it is found that we are not able to get ideal men to sit on these committees, what I would say is that the men who are on the staff of the department at present are not also ideal men. Therefore, by a kind of mutual check, things could be rendered much better and easier and safer to the public than at present. It may be objected that, if private citizens are allowed to pay surprise visits to police stations, that might interfere with the detection of crimes. What I submit is that even though these citizens, who constitute these local committees, are not paid anything and are taken in only as honorary workers, they should be considered as public servants, so that if they abuse their position, they must be proceeded against just like other officers of Government. Therefore, what I suggest is that a kind of mutual check might be established. We should have bodies to work somewhat like the Tribunes of the people of ancient Rome. The members of these local committees should be empowered to look into the working of the police in particular areas. With this object, in view I beg to move this motion.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I do not see any objection in the suggestion of Mr. Raman Menon, *viz.*, of constituting local boards and giving them the privilege of reporting to the Police Commissioner on important matters touching the conduct of the local police. But as regards his suggestion that they should be permitted to make surprise visits to police stations, I am not able to understand the necessity for it. What the police are supposed to be doing, or what they actually do, could be known by the people in the locality, or by the local board, even without making any surprise visits. If the local boards are allowed to make surprise visits, I am afraid, that will lead to various complications. I cannot therefore accept that suggestion. As regards his other suggestion, as I have already stated, I would only welcome local boards communicating to the Police Commissioner any information about the working of the local police which they think worth while to be communicated to the Commissioner; and I can also assure the House that such reports will receive prompt attention at the hands of the Police Commissioner. I have nothing more to add.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, the suggestion of Mr. Raman Menon to appoint local committees with power to pay surprise visits to police stations is wrought with considerable mischief; and certainly, I will not commend such a proposition for the acceptance of this House. In the first place, it will create factions in the village and perhaps we will have another set of spies, as it were, who will be engaged in blackmailing the people as well as the policemen. If we accept his suggestion, that would practically amount to our creating one more agency for troubling the people. Although my friend's object is

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[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

to put down corruption, I may assure him that the result will be just the other way. Moreover, I have grave doubts as to the practicability of his suggestion and I do not think it will be desirable to create local bodies and allow them to tamper with the work of the Police which must, in most cases, necessarily be of a secret nature so far as the detection and investigation of crimes are concerned. Surprise visits by such local bodies, as suggested by my friend Mr. Raman Menon, will be entirely out of place as regards the main work of the police and will defeat the object for which the police exist. I would certainly not recommend such a proposition for the acceptance of the House.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Sir, it is undeniable that the standard of efficiency of the police requires considerably to be improved. If the police were more efficient and were imbued with a greater sense of responsibility as the guardians of public peace and as the protectors of the weak and of the oppressed, it would undoubtedly be a great advantage. But I am afraid Mr. Raman Menon's suggestion is not at all the best way of promoting that object.

Sir, the other day, we were speaking about the unsatisfactory nature of the personnel of the Village Panchayat Courts. Similarly, local committees that are to sit over the actions of the local police and to communicate directly with the headquarters would only degenerate into another machinery for blackmailing the people, and also the police sometimes. No doubt, if you get the right kind of men, it is all right. But seeing how the Municipalities and the Panchayat Courts in the various parts of the country are manned, there is no reason to think that a sufficiently large number of public-spirited and trustworthy men would be available to constitute these committees, especially in these days of communal differences when claims would be put forth by all communities to get the representatives of each and all into these committees and to control the police properly. Certainly, some remedy should be adopted. There is no question about that. As to what it is one cannot immediately put one's finger upon any panacea.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Cannot the system be tried in areas, like big towns, where such men could be got at?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Even in big towns, I do not think it will be possible to get the right sort of men. Even in Trivandrum, I do not think the people are perfectly satisfied with the personnel of the Panchayat Courts or of the Municipality. I, for one, am not prepared to concede that the suggestion is feasible. The only remedy is that the very best men alone should be recruited as police officers; and there should be an elevation of the tone of public opinion. These two must act and react upon one another. It is only in that way that the police can be made more efficient. It is the duty of the Government to see that only men of a very

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high order are entertained as District Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Inspectors and Head Constables. This could be done, according to me, by introducing competitive examinations, by increasing the salaries and by making it more attractive for the better class of men to enter the police force. I think that will be more beneficial to the people. I am not in favour of the method suggested by Mr. Raman Menon.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In spite of what Mr. Mammen Mappillai and Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai spoke about blackmailing by these committees, it seems to me that, if such local committees are appointed, they will serve as a great check against the oppression by the subordinates of the police force. We are not ideal men. Mr. Mammen Mappillai has always been reminding us of it. So, what we can do is to do all that is possible under the circumstances, to try to get the best sort of men available and to entrust them with this work. I do not think that, by the institution of these committees, matters will become worse than they are at present. If four or five persons from each locality could be chosen to exercise some sort of supervision over the work of the police, that will go a great way in checking the subordinates of the police force. I do not say that the committee should be given any power to interfere with the police work. I only say that they should be allowed to inspect the stations and to report direct to the Commissioner or to the Government. I do not think this will interfere with the work of the police. On the other hand, it will only serve as a wholesome check, as I consider it. With these words, I press the motion.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I have not got anything more to say.

PRESIDENT: I cannot hear you, Mr. Krishna Pillai.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I have not got anything more to say. I am sorry I am not able to accept Mr. Raman Menon's suggestion.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion, Mr. Raman Menon?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and lost, only *five* members voting *for* it.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I demand a poll. (*Laughter.*)

A poll was taken with the following result: —

AYES—5.

1. Mr. G. Raman Menon.
2. ,, M. N. Pillai.
3. ,, M. Sivatanu Pillai.
4. Mr. K. I. Joseph.
5. ,, C. Kerala Varma Koil Tampuran.

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NOES—33.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. ,, J. B. Cook.
3. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
4. ,, K George.
5. ,, P. Habeeb Mahomed.
6. ,, A. J. John.
7. ,, R. Krishnaswami Aiyar.
8. ,, R. K. Krishna Pillai.
9. ,, N. Kumaran.
10. ,, T. Kumara Pillai.
11. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.
12. Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.
13. ,, X. G. Lopez.
14. Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose.
15. Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
16. ,, G. Narayana Pillai.
17. ,, Kallur Narayana Pillai.
18. Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
19. ,, R. Nilakanta Pillai.
20. ,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
21. ,, Kayyalam Paramesvaran Pillai.
22. ,, T P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
23. Rao Bahadur K.V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
24. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
25. ,, K. Sivarama Panikkar.
26. ,, V. Subba Aiyar.
27. ,, M. Subrahmanya Pillai.
28. ,, V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar.
29. ,, C. P. Tarakan.
30. ,, C. P. Thomas.
31. ,, K. K. Thomas.
32. ,, C. N. Tuppan Namputiri.
33. ,, A. J. Van Ross.

NEUTRALS—2.

1. Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.
2. ,, R. Padmanabhan.

Motion 304.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Torala*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

304. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·40 lakhs under Demand XIV, by Rs. 100.

The object of this motion is to draw the serious attention of the Government to the impression that is gaining ground, at any rate in my constituency as well as in the adjacent taluk, *viz.*, Agastisvaram, regarding the conduct of the lower ranks of the police force. I may say, at the very outset, that I also joined with the few who supported Mr. Raman Menon's motion simply to point out my disapprobation of the conduct of the police force, particularly in the subordinate ranks. Sir, I take this opportunity to assure the Government, as well as the members of this House, that a very large portion of the people of Nanjinad are rapidly losing confidence and respect towards the police as will be exemplified by one or two instances which I shall give presently. In order to understand the opinion of the people concerning the Police Department, it may be of help to the members of this House if I draw their attention to the conduct of the police in regard to the checking of motor vehicles. However much the responsible officers of the department may try, I think it will take a very, very long time for them to disabuse the impression that has already gained ground in the minds of the people. I am sure it is within the memory of this House that, not very long ago, the *satyagraha* campaign was started at Suchindram in the Agastisvaram taluk in support of the claims of all sections of the public, irrespective of caste or creed, for the

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free use of the road there. At the time the campaign was started, nobody was in a position to understand the real attitude of the Government towards it. Naturally, the *satyagraha* volunteers, believing that the Government were maintaining a position of absolute neutrality in the matter, began to exercise their right to enter the road in question, by peaceful and non-violent methods. It was the opinion of the volunteers and of the general public that, in a matter in which the attitude of the Government seemed, for all appearances, to be one of absolute neutrality, the officers of the department would naturally be guided by the best of motives. But, in the present instance, the people were sorely disappointed. As a matter of fact, there were a series of cases of assault and blackmailing as a result of the volunteers attempting to exercise their rights in the most lawful manner possible. In some cases, such assaults were preceded by unlawful assemblies also. All these things could have been very promptly put a stop to by the police officers if only they wanted to do it. On the other hand, such offences have, as a matter of fact, been committed even in the very presence of some of the responsible officers of the department. I know, as a matter of fact - I was even an eye-witness to some of these occurrences—that more than five persons freely joined together, in some instances, solely with the object of committing crimes in broad day-light and in the public highway. In the presence of a Head Constable and 3 constables, more than 13 persons joined together and assaulted some youngsters, belonging to the depressed classes, as they were returning after a celebration in the Mission School or College there. Young boys of 10 or 13 were returning to the village of Karkad after enjoying the celebrations in the Mission College, Nagercoil. These poor young innocent children were brutally assaulted by a number of persons who had got themselves drunk previously. I was myself an eye-witness to this incident. All my remonstrances to these offenders were absolutely of no avail. As a result of this occurrence, which I had occasion to see myself, I was obliged to place complete reliance and faith in the reports that I received regarding the attitude of the police on such occasions. I know, as a matter of fact, that certain complaints were made on behalf of these poor youngsters to some of the higher authorities of the department. But no action was taken by them in spite of such complaints. I myself brought certain instances to the notice of the police officers of the locality. But they replied that they would naturally adopt their own course in regard to these complaints, as in other cases that come to their notice. I informed the police officers there of the statements that have been made by the aggrieved, at the Idalakudi Police Station, and also gave them the names of the persons alleged to have taken part in the offence. I was told that the police would naturally be guided by the best of motives, that they would take down the statements given by the aggrieved and that they would then proceed to investigate the matter as usual. As a matter of fact, nothing was done as a result of the complaints. The matter was then referred to the Police Commissioner. The Police Commissioner simply countersigned the petition and asked the local authorities concerned to make an investigation in the matter. In spite of all this, nothing was done to redress the grievances of the complainants. I

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

had occasion to point out to the local Police authorities that this sort of attitude on their part is sure to lead to serious breach of the peace between the so-called high caste men and the so-called down-trodden men; and, as a matter of fact, it did end in a riot. There was a very serious riot in the locality. The responsible officers of the department have now taken care to see that the ring-leaders who have been primarily responsible for this occurrence are let off. The ring-leaders, belonging to the so-called high castes, were purposely left out and certain people who did not take any very active part in the disturbance were charged as the ring-leaders. On the other hand, the people belonging to the so-called depressed classes, who I know are absolutely innocent, are being considered to have been mainly responsible for the commission of the offences. If, as a matter of fact, the Government are neutral, I cannot understand this attitude of the police. So long as the Government do not take any side whatsoever, it is the duty of the police also not to take sides with any one party. They ought to take the position that they ordinarily take. This I think is a very serious dereliction of their duty.

PRESIDENT: You have reached the time-limit.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I be permitted to speak for two or three minutes more, Sir?

PRESIDENT: I am afraid, not. We must get on with our business.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): With regard to the routine work of the department, the method adopted by them in particular cases is not the correct method. When a building of a Hindu temple was demolished by the Salvation Army people and the matter was brought to the notice of the police, the police quietly slept over the matter. In spite of the repeated requests of the people, the police authorities did not care to do anything in the matter, because, as I was told, some of the persons against whom action had to be taken happened to be men of very high position in the Salvation Army. I want to draw the attention of the Government to that matter.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): I support the motion of my friend Mr. Sivatanu Pillai. I am actuated to do so not by any other reason except the unsatisfactory conduct of the Police in connection with the *Satyagraha* movement at Suchindram. The peaceful and non-violent *Satyagrahis* were regularly and systematically assaulted by the rowdies of Suchindram. The matter was duly brought to the notice of the police. Yet they failed to take the necessary preventive measures. These merciless and brutal assaults took place whenever there was no police constable at the spot. I personally brought the matter to the notice of the police and requested them to post at least one constable at the spot always. I also brought the matter to the notice of a high and responsible police officer and the answer that I received from him was that the police have no place in the Suchindram *Satyagraha*. Well, Sir, whatever be the attitude of the Government in the matter, when it was brought to the notice of the police that a set of peaceful people were being regularly assaulted in the King's highway, I think it is the duty of the police to take preventive measures.

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If the police have no place in such a place, then, I think I am right in saying that they ought to have no place in the State itself. It was a pity that the police did not realise the fact that the movement for the removal of untouchability is a growing one, gathering force at every moment with the moral and active support of the whole civilized world behind it. I support the motion merely to express my condemnation of the attitude of the police in this particular instance.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : May I know from Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai whether any cases of assault were brought to the notice of the Magistracy when the police were inactive ?

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Yes, by persons like myself and not by *Satyagrahis.*

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know whether any aggrieved party complained of it ?

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*) : They were brought to the notice of the proper authorities by persons like myself and not by *Satyagrahis* themselves.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : I also wish to make a few observations on this motion. I may say at the outset that I have nothing to do with the *Satyagraha* movement at Suchindram on which Messrs. Sivatanu Pillai and Subrahmanya Pillai spoke. I may make some general remarks about the working of the subordinate officers in the department. The conduct of the constables in the interior parts of the country is far from being satisfactory. The method they are adopting for the detection of offences is quite discreditable. On mere suspicion, they arrest a person and, by physical torture, they try to get some sort of information. I do not think that this sort of infliction is in any way recognised or supported by the laws of the State or by the circulars of the department. Anyhow, it is a matter known to all that even innocent persons are often suspected of crimes and made to suffer all sorts of physical tortures at the hands of unscrupulous public servants. I wish to know from the Police Commissioner whether these things are done with the knowledge of the higher officers in the department. If it is not so, I would request the Commissioner to enquire into such matters and take very early steps to do away with such an abominabe practice.

Another point, I wish to mention is as regards the general conduct of some of these constables. In this connection, I may say that the very low salary that they are getting may be a factor contributing to this. But whatever may be the grounds, it has to be said that these servants of the department are not always looking after the interests of justice. They very often, it is said, receive all sorts of remuneration and work against the interests of justice. Very often they get themselves completely drunk and carry on their work without any sense of fairness or justice. So, I would even suggest to the Police Commissioner to send a circular to the effect that these constables in the course of their duty and during day-time should not take to intoxicating drinks.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): സ്ക്കൂൾ കാൻസ്റ്റബിംസിനെ മതംഅയച്ചാൽ മതിയോ? മറ്റുള്ളവക്കും അയക്കേണ്ടെ?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): In their drunken moods, even the respectable and law-abiding persons may be put to trouble at their hands.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): കാൻസ്റ്റബിംമാരേയും ഹെഡ് കാൻസ്റ്റബിംമാരേയും കടിയിൽ നിന്നും തടുത്താൽ മതിയൊ; മറ്റുള്ളവരേയും തടുക്കേണ്ടെ?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I am now concerned only with the Police Department and so I am making this observation. I am not speaking lightly on this matter. People suffer very much on this account. As regards the higher officers in the department, I do not know much and I do not say anything about them now.

Another point about these constables is that they very often encourage rowdyism and other acts of lawlessness on the part of persons in the interior parts. They even instigate persons to commit such acts. I state these things so that the Police Commissioner may exercise more vigilance in the matter and see that such things are checked.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, Mr. Sivatanu Pillai had been telling us that the people of Agastisvaram taluk had been losing confidence in the police there. But I may assure him that several people of that taluk have told me that they have full confidence in the police there. So it comes to this. There is Mr. Sivatanu Pillai who has stated here one side of the story and there are other people who support the police and think that they are doing their duties properly. In connection with the *Satyagraha* movement at Suchindram, the people there have divided themselves into two parties and therefore it is possible that one party should accuse the other in this fashion.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know in what all points the police there were praised by the people in the locality and what were their achievements?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They have been telling me that, had it not been for the police, worse things would have taken place.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Did they do any work there?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They were doing preventive work.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether there have been any complaints regarding the conduct of the local police?

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MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : Yes. From one party there were some complaints that the police did not take proper action. As the cases reported to the police were non-cognisable, it was not possible for the police to take any action. But they were referred to the Magistrate.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether offences such as unlawful assembly are non-cognisable offences ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : In a case of unlawful assembly, action was taken and that is pending.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the action taken by the police was not after a series of offences were committed ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : We have already taken action under Section 90 and those cases are also pending before the Magistrate. We have taken preventive action also.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether that was upon a series of complaints brought forward before the Police Commissioner ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : Probably as a result of it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the ringleaders of the so-called high-caste Hindus were also included in such proceedings ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : Members of both parties were included. I do not know anything about the leaderships.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was the action based on the petitions presented by the so-called depressed classes ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : It may be. The leaders might not have been included. It was left to the discretion of the police.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know—

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : He has not answered the question.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : After investigation, they took action wherever there was necessity. They cannot be asked to do things exactly in the same way that any particular individual wants them to do. The Police can go only by the result of the investigations they make.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether that action was taken long after the *Satyagraha* campaign was suspended ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : The case might have been charged afterwards and I am not quite sure of the date. All that I can say is that action was taken by the police and they began to collect evidence as soon as the necessity arose for it.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was not the charge preferred before the Magistrate only after the alleged riot took place, that is long after the suspension of *Satyagraha*?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : It is only after an incident like that took place can the police understand that there was a necessity for taking action.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was there not a petition from the aggrieved persons saying that their statements were refused to be taken down by the officers responsible for it?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : I am not aware of any such complaint.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was there not a petition to that effect addressed to the Commissioner of Police?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : I am not certain of it. Sir, then there is another allegation made by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai that many of these things took place in the sight of the police officers. I am afraid that it is opposed to facts. So far as our enquiries go, these assaults never took place in the presence of the police officers and they took place when they were absent.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*) : I think that was what I also said.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : Then what can the police do? They are not in a position to divine whether a particular thing is going to take place or not.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the Police Commissioner is aware that the locality is quite close to the Police Station, *i. e.*, two furlongs?

MR. R K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : If it is two or three furlongs how does it affect the situation? There might be a police station here and a riot may take place two or three furlongs away and the police can go there only after getting information.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is it a fact that when the so-called depressed classes represented the matter before the local police officer, he refused to take their statements and prefer a charge against the offenders, whereas he took statements from the high-caste people and preferred a charge on the basis of those statements?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : No such statement was given or refused to be recorded by the Police Inspector. That is the result of our investigation.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was there not a petition to that effect?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : I do not think that it is a fact.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was there not a petition to the effect that a particular Police Inspector refused to take down statements f the so-called depressed classes?

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MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : There might have been a representation like that. That does not mean that it is true.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was that petition enquired into ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : All the complaints that were received by the Commissioner of Police were enquired into and such action taken as was found to be necessary. If the complaints were not found to be true, nobody can find fault with the Police Commissioner for not punishing the subordinate. He can punish him only after finding that he is at fault.

A case of demolishing of a temple was referred to by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai. If he will only give me the details, I can look into the matter and see that a proper investigation is made.

As regards some general remarks made by Mr. Joseph all that I have to say is that on the strength of these general remarks nothing can be done. If specific cases of corruption or of drunkenness are brought to the notice of the higher authorities, proper action will surely be taken against the subordinate.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether the abkari policy of the Government has anything to do with the increase of murder cases ?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : I am not certain whether it has anything to do with it.

I can assure Mr. Joseph that we are as much anxious to put down corruption and drunkenness in the Police Department as he himself is.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I believe that the Police Commissioner will realise the purpose for which I brought forward this motion and if I have his assurance that, in future, he will scrupulously care for the conduct of the subordinates of the department, I will have no conscientious objection to withdraw this motion. I hope the Police Commissioner will give me the necessary assurance.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : May I know whether there was any complaint to the magistrate from the aggrieved party ?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Yes. Not from the *Satyagrahis*, but from other persons who were actually assaulted, and the cases are still pending.

PRESIDENT : If the cases are still pending, it is *sub judice*, and you cannot refer to anything pertaining to those cases.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Certainly, I do not refer to any matter *sub judice*.

PRESIDENT : Are you withdrawing or not withdrawing your motion, Mr Sivatanu Pillai ?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Provided the Police Commissioner gives me an assurance.

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PRESIDENT: You heard his speech, and it is for you to say whether you withdraw your motion or not.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I did not hear him towards the close of his speech.

PRESIDENT: That cannot be helped.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): With the impression that he has assured me so, I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote of the House that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5·40 lakhs be granted under Demand XIV—Police.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

The Council rose for lunch at 1-50 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-45 P. M., the Deputy President presiding.

DEMAND XV—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES—RS. 1·74 LAKHS.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·74 lakhs under Demand XV—Agriculture and Fisheries.

21 A. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES—DIRECTION.

Motions 305 to 307.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. K. K. THOMAS:

305. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,016 for Direction by Re. 1.

The following motion was deemed not to have been moved as the member was absent:—

MR. T. J. MATTHEW:

306. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,016 for Direction by Re. 1.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. K. I. JOSEPH:

307. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,016 for Direction by Rs. 100.

21 B. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES—EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND MANURE DEPOTS.

Motion 308.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I move the following motion:—

308. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 81,099 for Experimental Farms and Manure Depots by Re. 1.

In moving this motion, I wish to invite the attention of this House to the fact that on account of the increase in the cultivation of rubber in the central regions of Travancore, brushwood so necessary for the bunding of *punja* lands is being depleted. It is a matter of serious consequence for generations to come. In a few years, if the cultivation of rubber goes on at this rate, the one thing essential for the successful bunding of *punja* lands will be wanting in those regions. I request the department to consider the feasibility of providing some substitute for brushwood so that the bunds of *punja* lands may be more effectively constructed. The only available sources at present are what we call the *eeta* which is known only in the western portions. When the brushwood is entirely

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